

MCKINLEY, in sponsoring legislation to provide resources to help our veterans pursue higher education and gain the skills and training they need to succeed in STEM careers.

The ability to analyze, communicate, and motivate, honed while in the military, makes veterans ideal candidates for the STEM fields. And with growth and demand for STEM experts expected to outpace other professions in the next two decades, this legislation will help meet the need for a highly skilled workforce, enabling us to better compete in the global economy while also creating new employment opportunities for our Nation's heroes.

So I urge my colleagues to join Mr. MCKINLEY and me in supporting the GI Bill STEM Extension Act.

"WE THE PEOPLE" INITIATIVE

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge participation in my new initiative, "We the People."

Imagine a Congress that functions effectively. Imagine a Congress that hears from you daily and, as a result, devises legislation and legislative solutions based on your individual needs and from your own experiences. This is my view of an effective government, and it is why I have launched the "We the People" initiative this week.

Because of your ideas and your feedback, we have been able to pass two pieces of legislation this year. Let's continue to build on that success and continue to make Washington work for the Granite State.

I know we have much left to accomplish. So I want to hear from you. From now on, my office will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can email me directly your legislative solutions and ideas to wethepeople@mail.house.gov or you can call me or text me directly at 603-250-6850.

From your suggestions, I will better be able to tailor legislation to meet your needs. My office remains yours. So please spread the word about the "We the People" initiative.

U.S. MUST CONSIDER ITS ISLAND TERRITORIES

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the President announced resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

While we celebrate the implications of a renewed relationship both for Cuban and American citizens, the citizens of my own home district do so with guarded welcome.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. territories of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and

our geographic proximity to Cuba makes us a direct economic competitor. All indicators point to massive growth in Cuba's tourism industry.

While the U.S. Virgin Islands continues to be a premier tourist destination particularly for Americans, with more than 2.7 million tourists in 2014 alone, Cuba is shaping to be a formidable competitor.

Prior to resumption of relations, a report from the Caribbean Tourism Organization showed just over 3 million visitors to Cuba in 2014 compared to 2.7 for the Virgin Islands and 3 million in Puerto Rico.

However, in the first quarter of 2015, the Cuban Government has already reported more than 1.4 million tourist visits, a number that more than doubles the amount reported for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico during this same time.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must consider its own island territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the advancement of diplomatic relations with Cuba. Investments must come to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

I wish all of our French citizens a happy Bastille Day.

HELPING BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, we should always strive as a country to make sure that the promises we make are kept. Unfortunately, when it comes to the students at our Bureau of Indian Education schools, our promise to them is falling far short.

Students at these schools in Minnesota and around the country have endured deplorable conditions, including leaking roofs, schools with no heat, and other problems that make it difficult, if not impossible, to learn.

However, momentum is gaining to right this wrong. Some of us in the Minnesota delegation, including my colleagues JOHN KLINE and BETTY MCCOLLUM, have highlighted the need for critical repairs and construction for these schools.

The issue is not just financial, though. Washington, including the executive branch, needs to ensure that red tape is not keeping these students from getting an acceptable learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take action and focus on making sure that these students have a safe school setting where they can learn, grow, and excel.

NEVADA FAA 2015 WORLD CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to Payton Dahmer,

Kaylee Farmer, Cara Comstock, and Skyler Scotten for earning the title of the 2015 World Championship FFA Livestock Judging Team.

These members of the Nevada FAA chapter, along with their coach, Tanya St. John, practiced for countless hours, traveling all across the State and Nation to evaluate the quality of classes of cattle, swine, sheep, and goats as well as demonstrate the reasoning behind their placements in the oral presentation.

At the national competition, the team placed first overall, with all four competitors placing in the top ten individually. Winning nationals qualified them for the International Livestock Judging Competition in Scotland, where they again placed first in the team judging event.

While it was a long and challenging journey to earn this title, I would like to commend the 2015 World Champion FFA Livestock Judging Team for their dedication, perseverance, and poise they displayed in this competition. I am proud of how they represented themselves, their families, and our country.

I want to congratulate Payton, Kaylee, Cara, and Skyler for this amazing achievement. You are the future agriculture leaders this country needs.

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WESTERN WATER AND AMERICAN FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about California's water crisis. Later this week, we will be debating a bill, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, which was born out of many conversations with the Senate and with the administration.

Over the years, we have discussed how dry California is. Now, we can't prevent Mother Nature from creating a drought, but we can plan and store water for those dry years. It has happened for centuries. The problem is it just hasn't been happening in the last several decades in California, which means over 1 million acres of farmland will go fallow.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a California issue. This is an issue that will affect the entire United States food supply. We need to make sure we are capturing water.

While Members want to continue to debate climate change, shouldn't we all agree that hydroelectricity, the cleanest electricity out there, is good for our environment? The trees that I grow as an almond farmer are good for the environment. If you want to reduce carbon, let's plant more trees.

If we want to have safety and security in our communities that have forestland, then shouldn't we clear the